

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

United States of America

v.

Thomas Alexander Brandenstein,
Defendant.



Protective Order

24 Cr. 121 (LAK)

Upon the application of the United States of America, with the consent of the undersigned counsel, and the defendants having requested discovery under Fed. R. Crim. P. 16, the Court hereby finds and orders as follows:

Categories

1. Disclosure Material. The Government will make disclosure to the defendant of documents, objects and information, including electronically stored information ("ESI"), pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 16, 18 U.S.C. §3500, and the Government's general obligation to produce exculpatory and impeachment material in criminal cases, some of which will be referred to herein as "Disclosure Material." The Government's Disclosure Material may include material that (i) affects the privacy, confidentiality of individuals; (ii) would impede, if prematurely disclosed, the Government's ongoing investigation of uncharged individuals; (iii) would risk prejudicial pretrial publicity if publicly disseminated; (iv) may be produced with more limited redactions than would otherwise be necessary; and (v) that is not authorized to be disclosed to the public or disclosed beyond that which is necessary for the defense of this criminal case.

2. Sensitive Disclosure Material. Certain of the Government's disclosure material, referred to herein as "Sensitive Disclosure Material," contains information that identifies, or could lead to the identification of, witnesses who may be subject to intimidation or obstruction, and

whose lives, persons, and property, as well as the lives, persons and property of loved ones, will be subject to risk of harm absent the protective considerations set forth herein. Materials to be produced by the Government and which contain Sensitive Disclosure Material may be designated as “Sensitive Disclosure Material” by the Government and conspicuously marked as such, either by marking the materials themselves; the file names of the materials; or the folders containing the materials, with the words “Sensitive Disclosure Material.” The Government’s designation of material as Sensitive Disclosure Material will be controlling absent contrary order of the Court.

3. Attorney’s Eyes Only (“AEO”) Material. Certain materials in this case raise a more significant risk of affecting the privacy or safety of victims or witnesses, including child victims and witnesses as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3509, or the confidentiality of ongoing investigations. Disclosure Material produced by the Government to the defendant or his counsel that is either (1) designated in whole or in part as “Attorney’s Eyes Only” by the Government in emails or communications to defense counsel, or (2) that includes a Bates or other label stating “Attorney’s Eyes Only” or “AEO” shall be deemed “AEO Material.” Any material designated as AEO Material shall also be deemed Sensitive Disclosure Material.

NOW, THEREFORE, FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Disclosure and Treatment

4. Disclosure Material shall not be disclosed by the defendant or defense counsel, including any successor counsel (“the defense”) other than as set forth herein, and shall be used by the defense solely for purposes of defending this action. The defense shall not post any Disclosure Material on any Internet site or network site, including any social media site such as Facebook or Twitter, to which persons other than the parties hereto have access, and shall not disclose any Disclosure Material to the media.

5. Disclosure material that is not Sensitive Disclosure Material may be disclosed by counsel to: (a) the defendants for purposes of defending this action, (b) personnel for whose conduct counsel is responsible, *i.e.*, personnel employed by or retained by counsel, as needed for purposes of defending this action; or (c) prospective witnesses for purposes of defending this action.

6. Sensitive Disclosure Material may be disclosed by counsel to defendants and to personnel for whose conduct counsel is responsible, *i.e.*, personnel employed by or retained by counsel, as needed for purposes of defending this action; however, Sensitive Disclosure Material shall be kept in the sole possession of counsel or personnel for whose conduct counsel is responsible; shall not be reviewed or maintained by the defendant outside the presence of counsel or personnel for whose conduct counsel is responsible (except when a defendant is reviewing Sensitive Disclosure Material at counsel's office); and shall not be copied or otherwise recorded by the defendants.

7. AEO Material received by defense counsel shall be maintained on an attorney's eyes only basis, and the defense shall not share any AEO Material or the content of the AEO Material with any other persons, including the defendant, except for any personnel for whose conduct defense counsel is responsible.

8. This Order does not prevent the disclosure of any Disclosure Material in any hearing or trial held in this action, or to any judge or magistrate judge, for purposes of this action, with the following exceptions. First, Sensitive Disclosure Material pertinent to any motion before the Court should initially be filed under seal, absent consent of the Government or Order of the Court. Second, AEO Material that disclose the name of or any other information concerning a child shall be filed under seal without necessity of obtaining a further Order of the Court, pursuant to 18

U.S.C. § 3509(d)(2). All filings should comply with the privacy protection provisions of Fed. R. Crim. P. 49.1 and, as applicable, 18 U.S.C. § 3509.

9. The Government's designation of material will be controlling absent contrary order of the Court. However, the Government may authorize, in writing, disclosure of Disclosure Material beyond that otherwise permitted by this Order without further Order of this Court, except as otherwise prohibited by law.

10. The defense shall provide a copy of this Order to prospective witnesses and persons retained by counsel to whom the defense has disclosed Disclosure Material. All such persons shall be subject to the terms of this Order. Defense counsel shall maintain a record of what information has been disclosed to which such persons.

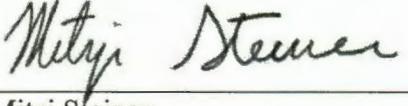
11. Except for Disclosure Material that has been made part of the record of this case, the defense shall return to the Government or securely destroy or delete all Disclosure Material, including any ESI, within 30 days of the expiration of the period for direct appeal from any verdict in the above-captioned case; the period of direct appeal from any order dismissing any of the charges in the above-captioned case; and the granting of any motion made on behalf of the Government dismissing any charges in the above-captioned case, whichever date is later, subject to defense counsel's obligation to retain client files under the Rules of Professional Conduct. If Disclosure Material is provided to any personnel for whose conduct defense counsel is responsible or prospective witnesses, defense counsel shall make reasonable efforts to seek the return or destruction of such materials.

Retention of Jurisdiction

13. The provisions of this order shall not terminate at the conclusion of this criminal prosecution and the Court will retain jurisdiction to enforce this Order following termination of the case.

AGREED AND CONSENTED TO:

DAMIAN WILLIAMS
United States Attorney

by: 
Mitzi Steiner
Assistant United States Attorney

Date: March 5, 2024


Andrew Daack, Esq.
Sylvie Levine, Esq.
Counsel for Thomas Alexander Brandenstein

Date: March 5, 2024

SO ORDERED:

Dated: New York, New York
March 6 2024


THE HONORABLE LEWIS A. KAPLAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE